



Anacostia Park Wetlands Restoration Plan/ Environmental Assessment with Resident Canada Goose Management Strategies



Please join us:
July 17 or 18, 2007 for
Public Scoping Meetings

July 17, 2007
6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.
U.S. Park Police Headquarters
Anacostia Park

July 18, 2007
1:30 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
U.S. Park Police Headquarters
Anacostia Park

Background

The Anacostia River was historically flanked with nearly 2,500 acres of tidal marsh. However, in the early 20th century the Army Corps of Engineers was charged with a major “reclamation” effort designed to improve navigation by channeling and containing the river within a stone seawall. Tidal flats and wetlands were also drained and filled to help rid the city of mosquito-borne diseases and stench along the river. Most of the areas we know today as Anacostia Park, including Kingman Lake, Kingman Island and Kenilworth Marsh, were created by the Corps during that reclamation work.

Public and government interests in restoring wetlands in the Anacostia River Watershed grew in the 1980’s and the National Park Service began working with others to restore nearly 100 acres of tidal marsh. The restoration of tidal marshes was hoped to improve the water quality of the Anacostia River, improve native plant and animal diversity, and provide a more natural recreation experience for park visitors along the river.



The input received at the public meetings on July 17th and 18th and during the public comment period will be used to further develop alternatives for analysis in the plan. Suggestions from the public for additional alternative elements are also welcome at this time.

Over the past decade an increasing number of resident Canada geese have been observed in Anacostia Park. Canada geese are a native migratory species that have always been seasonal visitors to the DC area—stopping temporarily in local waters en route to summer breeding areas to the north or winter ranges to the south. However, the DC area now supports a growing non-migratory population of Canada geese. The abundance of food and the lack of predators in urban areas have allowed resident Canada goose populations to grow rapidly.

As a result of the growing resident Canada goose population, the tidal marsh restoration efforts have been jeopardized by browsing resident Canada geese. Some tidal marsh areas in Kingman Lake that cost millions of dollars to restore have been nearly destroyed by the feeding geese.

Anacostia Park has recently started work on a Wetlands Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. The plan will address the Park’s future strategy for addressing wetland restoration, including invasive species control, erosion and sedimentation, wetland design, and resident Canada goose management on Park wetlands.

Your Participation

Because of your interest in Anacostia Park, we are requesting your comments on a Wetlands Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Park that includes resident Canada goose management strategies. Scoping is the first step to involve the public in the environmental impact analysis process. NPS uses your comments to ensure that it is considering all of the possible alternatives for the management of the resource. The purpose of these meetings is to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the development of a Wetlands Restoration Plan/ EA at Anacostia Park.



Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this action is to develop and implement a wetlands management plan that facilitates the protection of natural wetland functions within Anacostia Park.

Action is needed at this time to address the protection of natural wetland functions within wetlands in Anacostia Park. A plan is needed to identify wetland management strategies that address factors affecting current and future restoration activities, including:

- ◇ Resident Canada goose herbivory
- ◇ Erosion and sedimentation
- ◇ Hydrologic regimes
- ◇ Wetland vegetation

Objectives

GENERAL

- Ensure actions are consistent with laws, policies and regulations that guide the National Park Service.

HABITAT AND VEGETATION

- Restore, protect, and maintain wetlands for native fish and wildlife populations.
- Maintain native wetland vegetation and manage the encroachment of invasive and exotic plant species.
- Restore, protect, and maintain wetland functions.

WILDLIFE

- Manage a resident Canada goose population to allow for the restoration and protection of park resources.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

- Enhance visitor experience by restoring, maintaining, protecting, and interpreting wetlands.
- Enhance public understanding of the value of wetland restoration and issues associated with the management of resident Canada geese.

PARK OPERATIONS

- Consider and plan for impacts of wetland restoration efforts and resident Canada goose management response activities on current park operations, including budget, workload, and visitor experience.



Anacostia Watershed Society Photo. Volunteers assist with wetland restoration efforts on the Anacostia River.

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

- Cooperate and coordinate with the District of Columbia, the Army Corp of Engineers, and other governmental agencies as well as other stakeholders implementing a wetlands management plan and goose management strategy.

Preliminary Alternative Elements

The National Park Service, when developing the Anacostia Park Wetlands Management Plan/EA seeks alternatives that are:

- ◇ Meet the objectives for taking action
- ◇ Technically feasible
- ◇ Display common sense
- ◇ Economically feasible
- ◇ Not necessarily the easiest or least expensive solution

Listed below are factors that contribute to the success of wetland restoration efforts in Anacostia Park. Under each factor is a range of different solutions or tools the Park is considering for analysis in the EA.

Resident Canada Goose Management

- ◇ Alter habitats by using different plants, covering wetland areas with fences, or by planting lure crops
- ◇ Utilize visual deterrents or repellants to keep resident Canada geese off wetland areas
- ◇ Addle or oil eggs to control reproduction
- ◇ Utilize lethal controls such as capture and euthanasia or sharpshooting.

Erosion and Sedimentation

- ◇ Use of bio logs to stabilize wetlands
- ◇ Vegetation
- ◇ Soft and hard armoring

Hydrologic Regimes

- ◇ Where necessary address surface elevations of wetland areas

Wetland Vegetation

- ◇ Plant vegetation appropriate to elevations
- ◇ Provide conditions for wetlands to establish naturally- no planting

Urbanization Effects (trash, debris, and outfalls)

- ◇ Plant high uptake plants
- ◇ Utilize volunteers to remove trash
- ◇ Mitigation of outfall impacts

Invasive and Exotic Plants

- ◇ Map and survey invasive and exotic species in wetland areas
- ◇ Mechanical removal
- ◇ Chemical control (EPA approved herbicides)
- ◇ Biocontrols (e.g. beetles to control purple loosestrife)

Meeting Time and Location

The public scoping meetings will be at the U.S. Park Police Anacostia Operations Facility (Classroom A), 1901 Anacostia Drive, S.E., Washington, D.C. This facility is Metro accessible on the Green Line, Anacostia stop.

Tuesday, July 17th 6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.	Wednesday, July 18th 1:30 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
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The same information will be presented at both meetings. Each meeting will begin with an open house for 15 minutes, followed by a short presentation by the National Park Service (NPS) about the project and the planning process. After the presentation, NPS staff will be on hand to visit with you, answer questions, and record your input. Attendees may also submit comments on written forms available at the meeting or on-line at the address below.

How to Comment

There are several ways to participate in this planning process:

- ◇ Attend a public meeting
- ◇ Submit comments electronically at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/anac>
- ◇ Mail the enclosed form with comments
- ◇ Submit your own comments by mail to: Superintendent, National Capital Parks –East
RE: Wetlands Restoration Plan/EA
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020

Please submit comments by **August 10, 2007**.

Please be sure to include your full name and address with the comments so we may add you to our mailing list for information on future items in this process.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment– including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.